



NEWSLETTER

27 January – 2 February 2025



Sunday Worship 9am

Guest Preacher

This Sunday we will be joined by Rev Allan Blyth.

NORTH ROCKS RD UPDATE -- Jan, Feb 2025

Monday 20th January sees the start of major disruptions to, and some closures of North Rocks Rd between Church St/Windsor Rd and the Woolworths traffic lights for **over a year** as the Hunts Creek Bridge is reconstructed. We will keep you up to date with the details as they come to hand.

If you wish to keep up to date yourself, then see the official site at [Hunts Creek Bridge | City of Parramatta](https://www.cityofparramatta.nsw.gov.au/transport-and-infrastructure/hunts-creek-bridge)

Weekend Fri 7th Feb 9pm to Mon 10th 5am: COMPLETE CLOSURE of North Rocks Road except for buses still running.

The suggested detour for those normally coming up from (or down to) the bottom end of North Rocks Rd is via James Ruse Rd, Pennant Hills Rd, Bettington Rd/Statham Ave to the top end of North Rocks Rd and then down to the Church (or the reverse). This detour is about 7km and you should allow an extra 15 minutes drive time on Sunday morning, and more at other times.

Access to and from Woolworths car park will only be from the North.

Dates for your Diary

Craft Group @ 10 am-noon Fridays will resume on 7 February

Bring along your latest craft project and join us for morning tea and a chat. 10am each Friday in the church.

Jan	
29	Zoom Prayer Meeting
Feb	
2	Guest Preacher: Rev Allan Blyth
7	Craft Group
9	Guest Preacher: Rev Clive Pearson
11	Church Council Meeting
21–22	Australian Floral Art Association Workshop

Community News and Notices

For Freedom Global Prayer Gathering 1: 18 February 2025 07:30 AM UTC (18 Feb at 6:30pm in Sydney)

Register for this meeting on the link below. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

https://us06web.zoom.us/join/zoom-join?from=invitation&url=join%2FtZlqcuChqzotGdNYsucl_8Xo2JTRz8oMdFOw

For Freedom Global Prayer Gathering 2: 18 February 2025 09:30 PM UTC (19 Feb at 8:30am in Sydney)

Register for this meeting on the link below. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/join/zoom-join?from=invitation&url=join%2FtZ0ucOmoqDloHN3hvKpWgHz1HxnLYGiMYWag>

NSW Floral Art Association Inc.



Invites you to attend
The Colours of Our World

on

Friday 21 February 2025 from 10:30am
To be held in the NRCC Hall
Gold coin donation to view the spectacular flower designs

Or

If you are interested in joining us for the day please contact
Sharryn Place on 0418 692 003

Uniting Church Assembly and Synod News Links

Uniting Church Assembly: <https://uniting.church/news/>

NSW & ACT Synod: <https://nswact.uca.org.au/>

Reflection of the Week

Read Ephesians 6:18-20.

Paul completes his appeal to us to put on the full armour of God—all six pieces—with a bold command to pray: "And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests" (Ephesians 6:18). You see, prayer is like fresh air in our lungs. Without it, we cannot really be helped by the armour of God. Our Lord knows that when the battle gets harder—and my goodness, it's getting harder now—if our lungs are not filled with the fresh air of prayer, we are going to get tired, weak, and discouraged. Prayer, therefore, is essential.

With all the blessings and assurances God has poured out on us, it can be tempting to imagine we're

unstoppable. In pride, we can become prayerless. Friend, do not think for a single moment that because you have "every spiritual blessing in Christ" (Ephesians 1:3), because you have the armour of God, and because you have learned a good deal about the Scriptures, you can take even a single breath without humble dependence on your heavenly Father.

Notice that Paul says to pray "on all occasions with all kinds of prayers . . . for all the Lord's people" (v. 18). The frequency of all is very important. Is your situation grim? It's time to pray. Are things going well? It's time to pray. Don't feel like praying? It's time to pray. In another place, Paul wrote, "Pray continually" (1 Thessalonians 5:17). In other words, it's always time to pray.

Now, this doesn't mean we never leave our prayer closet. Rather, to pray continually is to live with a deep awareness of God's presence. It means we remain surrendered to our heavenly Father. When we hear of a need, we stop and pray immediately. When we experience a blessing, we stop right where we are and say, "Thank You, Father." When we see evil at work, we cry out to God on the spot. We don't wait until we have our quiet time; we pray in the moment.

Paul also says we should "pray in the Spirit" (v. 18), which is a call to be in harmony with the Holy Spirit. We are to pray in agreement with the Holy Spirit, according to the Word of God, for the will of God to be fulfilled in our lives and the lives of others. And we can take comfort that in our weakness, the Spirit Himself intercedes on our behalf (see Romans 8:26-27).

Prayer: Lord, thank You for the gift of prayer. May I develop a moment-by-moment habit of coming to You in prayer in every situation. Thank You that Your Spirit intercedes for me when I do not know how to pray. I pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

"And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people" (Ephesians 6:18).

Prayer Points for This Week

For Our Church:

- Pray for our commitment to God's word, faithful preaching and encouragement through prayer to bring us closer to Jesus.
- Pray for those serving in our church, for compassion, wisdom and guidance.
- Pray for our church leaders, for wisdom, unity in their vision, and care for our church's well-being.
- Pray for healing and restoration for Mari, Barbara, Dawn, Gail, Debbie, Peter, Glen H, Margaret T, Christine, Stan M, Samson & Gloria's family, Margaret B, Mackenzie, Maureen, and Val R.
- Pray for Alex, Bev & family as they mourn the loss of Alex's mother.

For the Wider Church:

- Pray for leaders in our churches. Give them your wisdom and discernment as they lead their congregations and bring transformation to their communities.
- Pray for churches without ministers in the UCA, asking for guidance, provision, and effective leadership during this time.
- Pray for strength and wisdom for mission organizations and missionaries as they share the Gospel across nations.

For Australia:

- Pray for those facing financial hardships and sorrow. May God's love surround them and bring them comfort and renewed hope.
- Pray for political leaders to govern with wisdom, integrity, and compassion, especially when shaping policies that impact vulnerable communities.
- Pray for unity across our lands. Pray that we all might be reconciled with one another through God.
- Pray for effective efforts focused on the prevention, treatment, and support of those affected by substance abuse.

For the World:

- Pray for world leaders, that they govern with wisdom, justice, and compassion.
 - Pray for international cooperation, that wealthier nations support sustainable solutions to poverty and food insecurity.
 - Pray for peace in areas of conflict and unrest.
 - Pray for compassion and effective support for migrants and refugees, that their needs may be met and that they find safety and hope.
 - Pray for the just and consistent application of anti-trafficking legislation in countries around the world.
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E - give (Anonymous Direct Electronic Giving)

Account Name: North Rocks CC - Giving
(BSB): 634634 **Account Number:** 100025906

Prayers

If you have any prayer requests or would like to know of those with particular pastoral needs to pray for, please contact Robyn or Pastoral Care Team.
Robyn: 0424 791 916

Ministry Leaders**Church Council**

Chairperson: Cathy Nelson Secretary: Samson Leung Treasurer: Anne Crabb
Alex Chow, Nicole Critchley, Jenny Keyte